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**CONFIDENTIAL**

16 October 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Briefing of Representative George H. Mahon (D., Texas)**

1. At the request of Representative Mahon, General Cabell and Mr. Warner met with him to discuss arrangements for Mr. Mahon to be briefed by certain CIA representatives abroad. Kenneth Sprankle and Samuel Crosby of the House Appropriations Committee staff were also present. When we arrived Mr. Mahon was being briefed by representatives of State and Defense on the Middle East area. Mr. Mahon seemed appreciative of the information being furnished him and General Cabell participated in the discussion.

2. After the State and Defense representatives departed, Mr. Mahon prefaced his remarks by stating that sitting on the Appropriations Committee he heard considerable criticism of the Agency from his colleagues, some of whom wondered if the Agency had too many people and whether or not it was incompetent. Therefore, he felt he would like to talk with some of our field representatives to learn more of our activities abroad. Mr. Mahon made a particular point that while he knew Mr. Dulles and General Cabell discussed matters frankly with him, he would like to be assured that our representatives abroad would talk with him in the same frank manner. General Cabell assured him they would receive word on this.

3. Mr. Mahon did not offer us a firm itinerary although through discussion we learned of a number of places that in all probability he will visit. General Cabell specifically suggested that Mr. Mahon make known to the Ambassador at these places his position within the Congress with respect to the Agency and his desire to be briefed by Agency representatives. Mr. Mahon was advised

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[redacted] CIA [redacted] would contact him and offer to brief him for such time as Mr. Mahon had available. General Cabell touched on some of the activities of the Agency at various places in Europe and the Mediterranean area to furnish Mr. Mahon a picture of our activities. Mr. Mahon seemed very pleased that we were making these arrangements but repeated again he did not wish to be held to a prearranged schedule and he wanted to keep his arrangements flexible.

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4. An appropriate cable has been sent to all of the stations where Mr. Mahon might possibly visit.

SIGNED

JOHN S. WARNER  
Legislative Counsel

cc: DCI  
DDCI  
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Comptroller

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